CON-CON WEEKLY REPORT

Revamped Election Laws May Save State $1 Million

By eliminating spring elections, a revised constitutional article on elections would save about $1 million a year.

This was the estimate of Delegates Peter L. Buback (D-Detroit), chief deputy Wayne county clerk, and William J. Leppien (R-Saginaw), former Saginaw county clerk, who as members of the Committee on Rights, Suffrage and Elections, helped work out the proposal on elections.

With the exception of cities and special elections to fill vacancies, all elections "shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year." The bi-partisan proposal is expected to be approved in the convention's Committee of the Whole.

* * *

THE MICHIGAN Municipal Clerks' Assn. as well as Detroit asked that cities be excepted. "Detroit voting machines are too small for all the candidates," Buback explains. "Many officials feel city issues don't get proper attention during the heat of national and state campaigns."

"Spring is an awkward time for an election," Buback and Leppien say. "It seems to come on the heels of the fall election, and creates an unreasonable burden on voters, party workers, and election officials. It interferes with legislative activity. At a time when officials should be working on state problems, they are called away by the Spring campaign."

The revised 451-word article, half the length of the present one, throws out antiquities such as a guarantee of votes to Indians, and tries to solve one of the more urgent problems of representation—disenfranchisement through modern mobility.

The article authorizes the Legislature to permit electors in Michigan for less than the required six months to vote in Presidential elections, and electors, disenfranchised by moving out of Michigan to another state, to receive Presidential absentee ballots.

"Americans are moving more and more often," said committee chairman James K. Pollock (R-Ann Arbor), professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan. "The argument for six months residence is that it insure knowledge of the issues by the voter. Surely knowledge of national affairs is as great in other states as it is in Michigan."

* * *

OF THE EIGHT sections in the article, minority reports were filed on two. Dr. Pollock, who joined the Democrats in both, predicted there would be sharp debate before a decision is reached.

One minority report attacks a section that keeps the voting age at 21. The majority report charges that the youngest group of voters takes the least interest in voting; the minority, seeking to drop the age to 19, declares it is needed to balance an electorate continually containing a higher percentage of the aged.

"Young people are relatively more affected by governmental decisions than older persons," the minority report continues. "Those affected by such decisions should have a part in making them."

The minority is backed by students and faculty of Port Huron Junior College who sent in a petition bearing 452 signature and announced they are trying to get other colleges to join them.

* * *

THE SECOND controversy involves the present constitutional provision that only property owners can vote on expenditure of money or the issue of bonds. The minority had wanted to take all qualifications out of these types of elections; instead, the majority extended the property-owner qualification to include "increases in tax limitations on property."

The majority, explains that if the voting qualifications are kept as a safeguard "against excessive tax burdens on real property . . . it is hardly rational to let non-property owners vote to increase tax limitations."

The minority replies that non-property owners do pay taxes through their rents, and that "the proposal would deprive thousands of citizens who indirectly pay such taxes from participation in vital decisions on the conduct of public schools."

The present Constitutional residence requirements of six months remains unchanged. Dr. Pollock explains it is liberal; no state has a shorter time; 13 have equal time; most require a year's residence, and a few, two years. The legislature also is given the right to prohibit mental incompetants and inmates of jail from voting.

State Police Give Warning On Molesting

Since child molestation complaints increase at this time of the year, parents should strongly warn their children against accepting lures of strangers to go for walks or rides, according to Sgt. Adolph Ploehn, commanding officer of the Detroit post of the Michigan State Police.

This cautionary advice, given now and occasionally repeated, might prevent some child from suffering an experience which could blight his or her life and even result in injury or death, he emphasizes.

* * *

RECORDS OF previous years show that child molesting complaints begin to increase in the spring, reach a peak during the summer months, and taper off when schools resume.

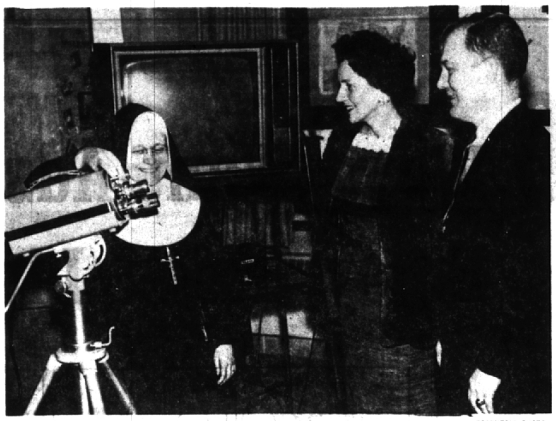
"Warn your children to have nothing to do with strangers. That's the safest rule for them to follow," Sgt. Ploehn advises. "Urge them to tell you right away if any stranger approaches and tries to lure them with candy or other things to go for walks or rides."

* * *

FEAR OF EMBARRASSING publicity makes some parents reluctant to report molestation incidents to the police. This is unfortunate because it increases the difficulty in coping with these situations.

Names of children molested and their parents, however, are not used by the press, radio and television except when necessary in cases of severe emergency, such as abduction or murder. If all incidents were reported, police would have a better chance of apprehending the offenders and curtailing such offenses, Sgt. Ploehn says. Lack of such reporting may encourage the molester to strike again.

Children should be assured that policemen are friends who want to help and protect them. They should be encouraged to notify police of any strangers loitering around playgrounds, schools, public rest rooms or in the neighborhood.



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Teach by TV

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Mother Mary Aquin of Marian High School for Girls shows Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Heisler of Stafford Drive the closed circuit television facilities—new at the school. Underwritten by the Mother's Club, the TV approach was demonstrated to parents recently.

Helps Boys Organizations

James P. Chapman (right), 1624 Apple Lane, Bloomfield Hills, was honored last week by the Boys' Committee of Detroit for 10 years' service as a director and chairman of the public relations committee of that organization, which sponsors the annual Boys' Day and other youth activities in Detroit. Making the presentation was Harvey Campbell, who retired as president of the Boys' Committee and as executive vice president of the Greater Detroit Board of Commerce on the same day. Campbell also was honored for long service to the organization. At the annual board meeting, Chapman was re-elected a vice president and director of the group.

JA Secretarial Certificates To Be Awarded

Hundreds of teenage Junior Achievement company secretaries from southeastern Michigan have been undergoing a series of preliminary interviews and exams in Detroit this week in preparation for the annual (JA) Secretary of the Year Contest.

Included in the preliminaries are secretaries of miniature Junior Achievement companies from the Birmingham area.

Next Tuesday the Detroit Chapter of the National Secretaries Association—sponsors of the contest this year—will judge five finalists at JA. area headquarters in Detroit.

The winner will be announced at the Secretaries Association's annual banquet to be held at the Detroit Boat Club on April 25 during National Secretaries Week.

The association will present the runners-up with secretarial certificates, with the winner receiving both an engraved trophy plus an all expense paid trip to the National Junior Achievers Conference to be held at Indiana University in August.

* * *

JUDGES at the April 17 finals are: the association's education chairman Miss Jean Alexander of 911 North York, Dearborn, Miss Marguerite Giandomenico of 11311 Fielding, Detroit, and the association's first vice-president Miss Maxine Niemeyer, 17570 Mack, Grosse Point, Michigan.

Activities of Fire Department Reported

The report from the fire department to the city manager for the month of March, states that the total number of silent alarms for fires and investigation in Birmingham was 24 and the total number of runs for the month was 42.

The total amount of insurance carried for the property endangered by fire was $481,154, while the total value of property endangered by fire was $520,554.00.

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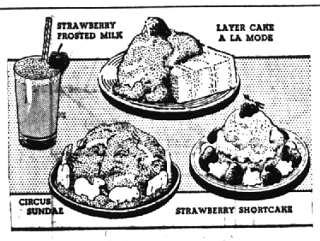

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K of C Open House

The Birmingham Knights of Columbus No. 3869 will hold open house at the new council hall at 30755 Southfield Road on the following dates: April 9, 16, 23, and 30.

All men interested in knowing more about our activities are invited to attend at 8:00 p.m.

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Eagle Awards Presented to Local Scouts

FRENCH

LUDWICKI

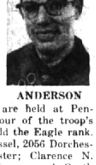
Three Birmingham Boy Scouts, all members of troop 1025, received their Eagle Scout awards at a troop court of honor, last Friday.

Gregory B. French, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Burr French, 2560 Dorchester, and Lawrence A. Ludwicki, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Ludwicki, 2351 Derby, both attend Derby Junior high school.

The third Eagle scout, Alan C. Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Werner Anderson, 2500 Silverside, Pontiac, is a former Birmingham resident still active with the troop.

* * *

THE TRIO received Scouting's highest achievement award from James R. Buchanan, 941 Henrietta, Scout Commissioner of North Trails District in the Detroit Area council.



ANDERSON

Troop 1025 is sponsored by the Birmingham Kiwanis club. Troop meetings are held at Pembrooke school. Four of the troop's 32 scouts now hold the Eagle rank.

Rudolph W. Pessel, 2056 Dorchester, is Scoutmaster; Clarence N. Frank, 1991 Shipman and Garth H. Hawley, 910 Brooklawn, are assistant scoutmasters.

Ends Aviation Work

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Marine Pfc. Frederick F. Widlund, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Widlund, 18201 Buckingham, Birmingham, was graduated March 30 from the Aviation Mechanical Fundamentals School at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn.

Forest Hills Sub. Sewer Project Said Necessary

Is there is or is there ain't odors from sewers in the Birmingham Forest Hills Subdivision?

There was some disagreement over this question at a public hearing before the city commission Monday night—but a spirit of being "good neighbors" prevailed.

And commissioners declared necessity for improvement of existing and construction of additional drainage structures within the subdivision to alleviate odors.

* * *

COST IS estimated at $16,500.

The city assessor was directed to spread the roll on the basis of property owners paying 85 per cent and the City 15 per cent.

Some residents complained of odors emanating from storm sewers near their homes. Others said they had found no odors but agreed to the proposed improvements on behalf of their neighbors.

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